



State of Tennessee

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 59

By Representatives McDonald, Gilmore

and

Senators Haile, Herron, Barnes, Beavers, Bell, Berke, Burks, Campfield, Crowe, Faulk, Finney, Ford, Gresham, Harper, Haynes, Johnson, Kelsey, Ketron, Kyle, Marrero, McNally, Overbey, Southerland, Stewart, Summerville, Tate, Tracy, Watson, Woodson, Yager, Mr. Speaker Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Walter Durham of Sumner County, Order of the Horse Award recipient.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable individuals who have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Walter Durham of Gallatin is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors, having been honored by his peers and neighbors as the 2010 recipient of the Sumner County Order of the Horse, which is presented annually to recognize a Sumner County resident's outstanding service to the community; and

WHEREAS, an acclaimed author and noted historian who has sought to preserve and protect Tennessee's heritage, Mr. Durham was appointed to serve as Tennessee's State Historian in 2002 by Governor Don Sundquist and recently re-appointed for another term by Governor Phil Bredesen; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Vanderbilt University, Walter Durham is a former chair of the Tennessee Historical Commission, past president of the Tennessee Historical Society, and was founding president of the Tennessee Heritage Alliance; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to public service, Mr. Durham was a member of the Tennessee American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and a delegate to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services; and

WHEREAS, the author of twenty-three books covering the scope of American, Tennessee, and Sumner County history, Mr. Durham's first book, *The Great Leap Westward*, was published in 1969, and his most recent work, *Grasslands: A History of the Southern Grasslands Hunt and Racing Foundation 1929-1932*, was published in 2010; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished writer, his articles have been published in countless magazines, journals, and newspapers; he has also made a number of contributions to several encyclopedias; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Durham's remarkable success as a historian, professional, and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, he is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor in Sumner County; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Durham is devoted to his family; he is most grateful for the love and partnership he shares with his beloved wife of sixty-three years, Anna; and

WHEREAS, Walter Durham is wholly committed to the noble precepts that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

HJR 59

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Walter Durham upon his receipt of the distinguished Order of the Horse Award, salute his laudable service to the people of Tennessee as State Historian and his professional excellence and unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

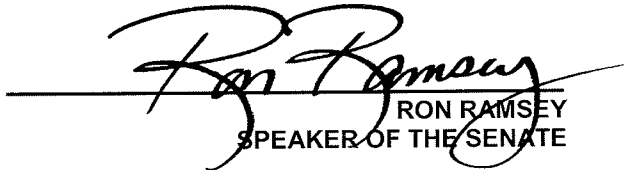
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 59

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 23, 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Beth Harwell", written over a horizontal line.

BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ron Ramsey", written over a horizontal line.

RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 3rd day of March 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Haslam", written over a horizontal line.

BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR